

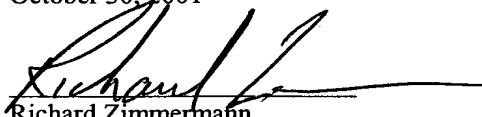
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PATENT
28111/37903

**IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Thompson <i>et al.</i>)	"EXPRESS MAIL" Mailing Label
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U.S. National Phase of PCT/GB00/01679)	
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)	
Group Art Unit: to be assigned)	October 30, 2001
)	
Examiner: to be assigned)	Richard Zimmermann
)	
)	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present paper contains a preliminary amendment to accompany the above-referenced application, which is a U.S. National Phase of application of International Application No. PCT/GB00/01679. Applicants request that the amendment be entered and considered in the present application prior to substantive examination.

AMENDMENT

In the specification:

Please replace the first paragraph of the specification with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application claims priority from US provisional application 60/131,983 filed April 30 1999, whose contents are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety. Further, this application is a continuation of International Application No.